

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A valve spool for a suspension damper, the valve spool comprising:
a body portion having an upper edge; and
a bridge connected to the body portion, the bridge extending at least
partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

10 2. The valve spool of claim 1 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and the
lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

15 3. The valve spool of claim 1 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and a
majority of the lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body
portion.

20 4. The valve spool of claim 1 wherein the body portion is generally
cylindrical.

5. The valve spool of claim 1 wherein the bridge defines at least one slot.

25 6. A valve for a suspension damper, the valve comprising:
a valve spool movable in a bore, the valve spool including a body
portion having an upper edge and a bridge connected to the body portion and extending
at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion; and
an actuating pin in contact with the bridge to move the valve spool
between an open position and a closed position.

7. The valve of claim 6 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and the lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

8. The valve of claim 6 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and a majority of the lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

9. The valve of claim 6 wherein the body portion is generally cylindrical.

10. The valve of claim 6 wherein the bridge defines at least one slot.

11. The valve of claim 6 wherein the bridge defines at least one slot adapted to register with an aperture in the bore.

12. The valve of claim 6 further comprising a spring adapted to bias the valve spool to a closed position.

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13. A suspension damper for a motor vehicle, the suspension damper comprising:

5 a cylinder tube having a gas cup therein dividing the cylinder tube into a gas-filled gas chamber and a fluid-filled fluid chamber;

a piston supported in the cylinder tube for back and forth linear translation and dividing the fluid chamber into a compression chamber facing the gas cup and a rebound chamber on the opposite side of the piston from the compression chamber; and

10 a valve including a valve spool movable in a bore in the piston, the valve spool having a body portion with an upper edge and a bridge connected to the body portion and extending at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion, and an actuating pin in contact with the bridge to move the valve spool between an open position and a closed position.

15 14. The suspension damper of claim 13 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and the lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

20 15. The suspension damper of claim 13 wherein the bridge has a lower edge, and a majority of the lower edge extends at least partially beyond the upper edge of the body portion.

16. The suspension damper of claim 13 wherein the body portion is generally cylindrical.

17. The suspension damper of claim 13 wherein the bridge defines at least one slot.

5 18. The suspension damper of claim 13 wherein the bridge defines at least one slot adapted to register with an aperture in the bore.

19. The suspension damper of claim 13 further comprising a spring adapted to bias the valve spool to a closed position.

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